81. Al-Muntaqim (The Avenger)

"Divine vengeance is not like human revenge. It is the restoration of balance and justice where it has been disturbed. Often, Allah's vengeance against the oppressor is to awaken his conscience."

- Abu Hamid al-Ghazali (1058-1111 CE)
Source: "Ihya Ulum al-Din"
(Revival of Religious Sciences)

Anyone who is helpless and unable to take revenge against his enemy should read this Beautiful Name of Allah for 3 consecutive Fridays. Allah, Himself will take revenge on his behalf, Insha Allah - Al Hisnul Hasin

BI'ISMIHI TA'AALA

Asmaa ul Husna

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The Most Beautiful Names of Allah ﷻ

Ml.Moosa Kajee

AL-MUNTAQIM ﷻ (THE AVENGER ﷻ)

Al-Muntaqim ﷻ is that Being who breaks the backs of the disobedient servants, punishes the sinners, and severely takes to task those who exceed the bounds, after having granted many warnings and granting abundant respite.

Amazing and strange incidents of Allaah ﷻ's chastisement have occurred in the world which causes one's heart to shiver when hearing it. Firawn drowned in the water, Qaarun was swallowed in the ground, Namrud was killed by a mosquito, Abrahah's army was destroyed by pebbles, Kisra was murdered by his own son Sherawayhi, Halaku Khan became mad and then died, Hitler's end result was evil, and the outcome of past and recent oppressive leaders are before all. In every town, city, village and in every era, such punishments have been meted out to oppressors which is sufficient for those who will take heed. However, blind people regard these as co-incidental.

All the cities across the world which were in existence thousands of years ago and which are being unearthed by archaeologists today are all great lessons to us and examples of the manifestation of Allaah ﷻ's punishment. At different places in the Quraan Majid, Allaah ﷻ narrates these incidents to warn man. In Surah A'raaf, Allaah ﷻ states, "How many cities had We not destroyed?"

Allaah ﷻ states, "Have you not seen what Your Sustainer did to Ad, Iram, those who built lofty pillars, the like of which were not created in the land?" (Fajr)

If Allaah ﷻ was not Al-Muntaqim ﷻ, then the people of the world would be left unfettered. This is the wisdom behind punishment (which is meted out to man).

1.) A saint relates, “Once while I was performing tawaaf, I saw a woman, who was carrying on her shoulders an extremely small child, exclaiming, “O Kareem! O Kareem! How can I thank You for the favours which You bestowed upon me in the past?” I asked, “What happened between yourself and Your Master?”

She narrated, “Once I had boarded a ship. A group of traders were together with us. A severe storm sunk the ship. All the people in the ship passed away, besides myself and my baby who held onto one plank and an Abyssinian man on another plank. Besides the three of us, no one remained alive.

When morning dawned, this man saw me. He began moving towards me. When his plank came into contact with mine, he climbed onto my plank and began making evil advances towards me.

I said to him, “Fear Allaah! We are caught up in such a difficulty. Inspite of worshipping Him, it seems unlikely that we will be saved. How can we ever think of sinning in such a condition?”

He growled back, “Don’t worry about all of that! By Allaah, I will make sure I carry out this action.” This small child was sleeping peacefully in my lap. Secretly, I pinched him hard, causing him to cry. I said to the man, “Wait for some time! Let me put him off to sleep. Then whatever is bound to happen will occur.”

This Abyssinian person grabbed hold of my child, and threw him into the ocean. I called out to Allaah ﷻ,

’’يَا مَنْ يَحُوْلُ بَيْنَ الْمَرْءِ وَقَلْبِه حُلْ بَيْنِيْ وَبَيْنَ هٰذَا الزَّنْجِيِّ اِنَّکَ عَلٰی کُلِّ شَيْئٍ قَدِيْرٌ

O the Pure Being who creates barriers between man and his intentions! Form a barrier between me and this Abyssinian person. Verily You have power over everything!

By Allaah! I had not even completed uttering these words when the head of a huge animal emerged from the ocean with its mouth wide open. In one gulp, it swallowed this Abyssinian man and disappeared back into the ocean. Allaah ﷻ saved me from his evil solely by His power. He ﷻ has power over everything. He ﷻ is pure, and extremely

Lofty. Thereafter, the waves of the ocean continued pushing me until eventually I managed to reach the shore of one island. There, I got off the plank, and began thinking to myself, “I will continue eating grass and drinking water until Allaah ﷻ makes some way out for me, and sends some sort of assistance for me.”

I remained on this island for four days. On the fifth day, I happened to see a huge ship passing nearby. I climbed onto a hillock, making indications towards the ship by waving the clothing which I was wearing. Three men descended from the ship into a small boat and came over to me. I climbed onto the boat and we returned to the ship. I saw my child which the Abyssinian had thrown into the ocean in the hands of one of the people. When I saw him, I ran to him and fell over him in tears. I kissed and hugged him, exclaiming, “This is my child. This is my beloved.” The people in the ship said, “Are you crazy! Are you absurd?” She replied, “I am not crazy. I am not absurd. I have an amazing incident to narrate.” I then related to them the entire incident. On hearing this, all lowered their heads in amazement and said, “You have narrated something amazing. Now we will tell you something which will surprise you. We were travelling comfortably in this ship with the wind in our favour. Suddenly, an animal appeared out of the water. On its back was a small child. Together with this, we heard a voice from the unseen,

“If you do not take the child from this animal’s back, then your ship will be sunk.” One of us stood up and lifted him. The animal then returned back into the water. Both our incidents are surprising. Now, we all make a pact with Allaah ﷻ, that from today onwards, we will not let Him ﷻ see us engaged in any sin. Thereafter, we all repented.”

2.) In Damascus, a man used to hire out his donkey, and live off its earnings. One day a person came to him and said, “I have to go to a certain place. Take me there.” He mounted this man on his donkey and began moving. The man directed the owner of the donkey to take an unknown road. The owner remarked, “I do not know that road.” The person answered, “However I know it. This road is a short-cut.”

After traversing some distance, they came across a terrifying valley. The man jumped off the animal, pulled out a knife, and wanted to kill the owner of the donkey. This terrified man begged, in the name of Allaah ﷻ, that his life be spared, saying, “Take the donkey and whatever is on it, but leave me.” However, the evil person refused to accede to his request. He replied, “I am going to take everything, but I am first going to kill you.” The owner asked for respite to perform two rak’ats of salaah, which was allowed by the bandit who said, “Perform it quickly.”

The owner of the donkey says, “I stood up for salaah. However due to fear, I could not remember anything. Not even one verse came to mind. Suddenly, Allaah ﷻ brought the following verse onto my lips,

أَمَّن يُجِيبُ الْمُضْطَرَّ إِذَا دَعَاهُ وَيَكْشِفُ السُّوءَ

Who is the Being who answers the call of the distressed one and removes difficulties? (Naml)

Suddenly a horseman arrived, with a spear in his hand. He drove it into the chest of the bandit, who fell down dead. I asked him to identify himself, to which he replied, “I am the servant of that Being who hears the call of the distressed one and removes difficulties.” (Ibn Katheer)

Umar ibn Abdul-Aziz ﷺ wrote a letter to one of his governors:

أَمَّا بَعْدُ! فَقَدْ أَمْكَنَتْکَ الْقُدْرَةُ مِنْ ظُلْمِ الْعِبَادِ، فَإِذَا هَمَمْتَ بِظُلْمِ أَحَدٍ فَاذْكُرْ قُدْرَةَ اللّٰهِ عَلَيْکَ وَاعْلَمْ أَنَّکَ لَا تَأْتِيْ إِلَى النَّاسِ شَيْئًا إِلَّا كَانَ زَائِلًا عَنْهُمْ بَاقِيًا عَلَيْکَ وَاعْلَمْ أَنَّ اللّٰهَ تَعَالٰى اٰخِذٌ لِّلْمَظْلُوْمِيْنَ مِنَ الظَّالِمِيْنَ۔ وَالسَّلَامُ

After praising Allaah ﷻ and sending salutations upon Nabee ﷺ! You have the power to oppress others. When you intend to oppress anyone, ponder over the power which Allaah ﷻ has over you. Remember! Whatever harm you cause to people will eventually come to an end for them, but will remain forever in your book of deeds. Verily, Allaah ﷻ will definitely avenge the rights of the oppressed from the oppressors. Was Salaam.(Ihyaa)

Allaah ﷻ has made this world a place of action and the hereafter a place of recompense. However, experience has proven that man is forced to see the harmful effects of his evil actions in this very world. The manner of Al-Muntaqim ﷻ in punishing is most fascinating. When He ﷻ decides to punish, He ﷻ punishes in such a manner which could never be contemplated by man. The causes which man utilizes for his protection actually become the cause of his destruction. Therefore, we should be extremely wary that we never oppress anyone.

Allaah ﷻ states,

اِنَّا مِنَ الْمُجْرِمِيْنَ مُنْتَقِمُوْنَ

Verily We take retribution from the wrongdoers. (Sajdah)

Retribution is general, in this world, in the hereafter or both. According to some ahaadith, we learn that three sins are such that the punishment is received in this world, before being meted out in the hereafter- 1.) A person who openly opposes the truth by raising flags and shouting out slogans. 2.) A person disobedent to his parents. 3.) A person who helps an oppressor.